A VINDICATION of the Preface of the book intituled, *Georgii Sinclari*, quondam in Universitate *Glasguensi* Philophiæ Professoris, *Ars Nova & Magna Gravitatis & Levitatis*, from the challenges and reflections of the Publisher of the *Philosophical Transactions*, as they are to be found, *Numb.* 50. date, *August* 16. 1669.

Nunc videte quam iniqui sint, quod sibi ex alieno arrogant, id mihi ex meo non concedunt.

THat the Reader, to whom the Publisher refers, may be the more able to judge impartially, Let him compare this vindication with his own words as they follow *viz.*

" An account of some Books.

" 1 Georgii Sincl ii *Ars Nova & Magna Gravitatis* " *& Levitatis. Roterodami in* 40. ANNO 1669.

" THe Argument of this book is the *Spring* and *Pressure* " of the *Air*, together with some considerations touch" ing the *Weight* and *Pressure* of *Water*, as also concer-

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"ning a *Vacuum*, the effects of *Pumps*, item *Pendulum's*, "*Hygroscopes* &c.

"Whether the Doctrine or Experiments here delivered, "be new and unheard of (as the author is pleased to think, "they for the most part are) we leave to the well-read "and intelligent to judge. Only we find our selves ob-"liged to take notice, that that excellent Treatise of "the honourable *Robert Boyle*, intituled, *New Experiments* "*Physico-Mechanical*, touching the *Spring* of the *Air*, "and its effects, was printed two years before that time, "about which the Author of this book saith in his Pre-"face to the Reader, he came to *London*, and there com-"mitted his then unprinted papers to the censure of the "*Philosophical Colledge* there, meaning the *Royall Societie*, "of whom he complains in the said Preface, pag. 2. that he "expected an answer from them, for almost two years in "vain, adding, that he after wards found in diverse books printed in English many things taken out of his Manu-"script.

"But to undeceive the reader in this particular, we shall "first desire him, to compare the date of the edition of "Mr. *Boyles* book above mentioned, with that of this time "of this Authors visiting *London*, and there exposing "his Manuscript; that done, it will easily appear which "party hath the priority, in the explication of this "Doctrine touching the *Air*: where it must not be left "unmentioned, that Mr *Sinclar*, when he was in *Lon-*"*don*, in his visits of Mr. *Boyle*, discoursed much with "him on that subject, and by his own acknowledgement, "then made to that Gentle-man, received much light "from him, concerning the same: Secondlie we

"shall

"shal take notice that it is so great a mistake, that "this author commended his Manuscript to the judge- "ment of the *Royal Societie*, that it is not so much as men- "tioned any where in their Register book, that such pa- "pers came ever before them (which yet is their constant "and careful practice to do of all things of that nature) "to which we must add, that the person with whom he "left those papers of his, Sir *Robert Moray* (perhaps with "a desire to recommend them to that *Illustrious Bodie*) "affirms, that he did not at all judge them proper to be ex- "hibited there, because they seemed to him to con ain no "thing new or extraordinarie. Thus he.

And first to passe the defective account he gives of the *Title*, neither mentioning his Countrie, nor his Profession, as he doth of others by him cited, it is to be observed, that in setting down the Argument of the book, he wraps up some of the choisest matters therein treated of, in an &c. What aileth this author, that he sayes, *Some considera- tions touching the Pressure of the water:* whereas, if he had not spoken too sparingly, he would have said, *New Ex- periments?* And what aileth him at the explication of the Phenomena of the *Diving Bell*, which will be found not onlie new, but of great use to the world, far beyond many things, which he so plentifully fills his papers with. If one of his own number had so explained those things, whether he would have shut them up in an &c. I leave it also to the wel read & intelligent to Judge. And for other purposes, which he so slightingly men ioneth, I leave it also to the impartiall Reader, if for the most

part, they be not both *New* and *Unheard of*: for the prooff whereof, let his *Theoremes* and *Axiomes*; his *Figures* and *Cuttes* be reviewed, the like whereof, let this Author find (if he can) in any book printed before the year 1662, and the *Index* of his book considered by any acquainted with what hath been publiſhed in this ſort.

And yet there is no doubt, but that if all things contained in the book now publiſhed in Latine (which will by this means be better known to manie who are more in love with their mother tounge, then skill'd in other languages) had been in the Engliſh Manuſcript, which this Author hath the confidence to ſay, was never preſented to the *Royal Societie*, there ſhold have been nothing either new or unheard of in it ſeverall years ago: and that there ſhould not have been wanting ſome perſons, who would have ſaved him the paines of commiting it to the Preſſe.

And that the Reader may know how greatlie this publiſher is miſtaken in affirming, that Mr. *Sinclar's* Manuſcript was not committed by him to the judgment of that *Illuſtrious Bodie*, & their peruſal Anno 62. let the weakneſs of the proof the Author brings, be but conſidered: it is not ſo much as mentioned (ſaies he) in their Regiſter-book, that ſuch papers came ever before them, *therefore they never came before them*, what by-ſtander may not ſee the badnes of ſuch a *conſequence?* Yea, was it not the intereſt of them, who had taken out the purpoſes of this Manuſcript, and the very *termes of art*, which Mr *Sinclar* had deviſed, and another would not have readily fallen upon, to procure this, that it ſhould not be recorded in the Regiſter, and that this very pretext of not recording it, might be brought for denying, that ever they ſaw it.

As

As for what this authour ſaith of that worthie Gentleman Sir *Robert Moray*, whom I think my ſelf bound here to vindicate alſo, he greatly wrongs him, for he was ſo far from judging that Manuſcript not proper to be exhibited there, that he cauſed one carry it along of purpoſe to the meeting of that *Illuſtrious Bodie*, Mr. *Sinclar* himſelf being preſent at that time, when it was delivered, and received by them: for verifying whereof he could yet give moe circumſtances, if it were needfull. And whereas he ſaith, that that learned Gentleman Sir *Robert Moray* affirmeth, that Mr. *Sinclars* papers ſeemed to contain nothing new or extraordinarie, this is yet ſo great a miſtake, that he adviſed him to turn his manuſcript into *Latine* and print it, which he would never have done, if he had judged of it, as this Authour would make the Reader believe.

And how good reaſon he hath to complain, that he found afterwards in diverſe books printed in Engliſh many things taken out of his Manuſcript, they that have ſeen it, & theſe Engliſh books, are witneſſes. And if he be further put to it let this author aſſure himſelf, that in the next *Treatiſe*, that he ſhal publiſh of thoſe things he hath now in hand, there ſhal be an evident demonſtration made of the truth of his complaint by unqueſtionable citations, both out of the fore-named books, and his Manuſcript. And as he forbare before to name any, as he ſaith in his preface, ſo doth he ſtill: and deſireth that none may take this to them, but theſe that are conſcious to themſelves of the injury he complains of. He is too well girded in this, not to make out what he ſatih.

As for the honourable *Robert Boyle*, it's much wondered, why

why this author ſhould mention him or his *Treatiſe*, unleſs it be either to make the one juſtle with the other, or to let the Reader know that the ſaid treatiſe was printed before the Manuſcript was ſeen at *London*, anno 62. But what doth this *impertinencie* ſignifie? Doth it anſwer the caſe? Yea, or doth it ſo much as touch the nail upon the head? For the queſtion is not, whether the one was prior to the other, about which there can be no debate, but whether Mr. *Sinclar* found in diverſe books printed in Engliſh, many things taken out of his Manuſcript? Therefore this author needed not to have been at ſo much pains to undeceive the Reader in this particular, & to let him know that, that was needleſſe to know, namely, that the foreſaid treatiſe was printed two years before the Manuſcript came to *London*. But what ever the Authors deſign be of mentioning that honourable perſon, none ſhal ever carry to him, and all ſuch excellent ſpirits, more due reſpect and reverence. It's not the love of intereſt and profit, but of friendſhip that he hath alwayes carried to ſuch; for which cauſe, contrarie to the advice of ſome here who fore-warned him what his Manuſcript perhaps would meet with, he would needs viſit that *Illuſtrious Bodie*, and preſent it to them, not ſo much (it may be) to know their judgement in the thing as to be an occaſion of ſeeing what by fame he had heard: where he had the happineſſe to viſit Mr. *Boyle* at his own dwelling-houſe in the countrey. But what ever this author (I know not who) ſaith of Mr. *Sinclar's* receiving much light from him concerning that ſubject, he cannot but think, the candor and ſobriety that

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uſually attends ſuch excellent ſpirits; w ould not ermit Mr. *Boyle* to ſay ſo much himſelf, but rather acknowpledg the mutual advantages which men ſtudied in the ſame ſube ject mater, have by their meeting and conference.

It's very well known, that as Mr. *Boyles* book was prin-ted before Mr. *Sinclar* committed his Manuſcript to the judgment of that *Illuſtrious Bodie*, ſo till he had ended his Experiments, he had not ſeen Mr. *Boyles* Treatiſe, but on-ly heard of it in the Preface of another book. If he had been oblidged to it for his purpoſes, he would have no leſſe mentioned it in his Preface, then he doth *John Pec-quets* Anatomical Experiments, who many years ago firſt found out, and firſt mentions the *Benſill* and *Preſſure* of the *air*, and who firſt ſet Mr. *Sinclar* upon that ſearch.

Neither needed the Authour to have queſtioned, whe-ther of the twain had the priority in treating of tha t do-ctrine, ſeing Mr. *Sinclars* way is *toto cælo* different from Mr. *Boyles* way: the one making out the *Preſſure* of the *Air*, from the effects of the *Receiver* and *Pneumatical-Pump*: the other by counterpoiſing the *Air* with *Mercurie* in Glaſs-tubs of all ſizes, and ſhewing the definite weight of each particular *Cylinder* of *Air*, what ever the dimenſions of it be; and demonſtrating clearlie, by counterpoiſing *Water* with *Mercurie* in Tubes of all meaſures, not only the *Preſſure* of the *Water*, but by this means explicats moſt eaſily all the great difficulties that ariſes from the *Torricel-lian-Experiment*, which way of explication, if this Author can ſhew before the year 62, then ſhal Mr. *Sinclars* Expe-riments be judged by the well read and intelligent, not to be *New* or *unheard* of.

It

It had been better for this Publiſher to have reflected upon, and contemplated the wiſdom of the *Creator*, who hath not appropriated knowledge and wiſdome ſo to *one man*, or to *one ſociety*, or to *one nation*; but, that that *Father of Lights* hath ſcattered theſe enduments, as in his ſoveraign wiſdome, he judgeth meet: ſo that the Poet ſaid well of *Democritus*,

——————— *Cujus ſapientia monſtrat*
Summos poſſe viros & magna exempla daturos
Vervecum in Patriâ, craſsóque ſub aëre naſci.

FINIS.